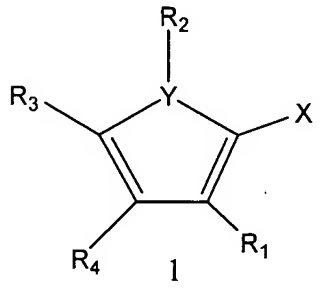
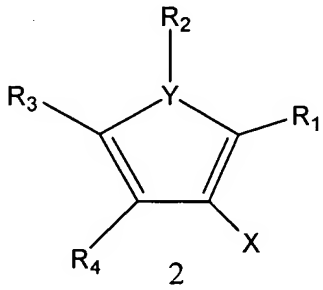
Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 14-18, 20-26, 28-34, 36-40, 42-44 and 47 without prejudice or disclaimer and amend Claims 13, 19, 27, 35, 41, and 45 as set forth below.

1. (Original) A compound that inhibits base exchange more than deacetylation by a SIR2 enzyme, in a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of Formula I, Formula II, Formula III, Formula IV, and Formula V, wherein Formula I has one of Structures 1-8:



1



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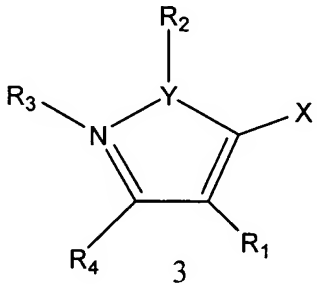

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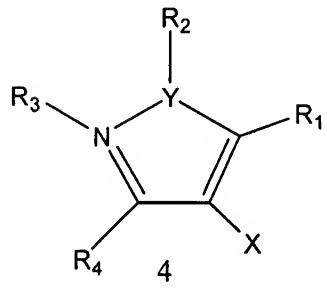

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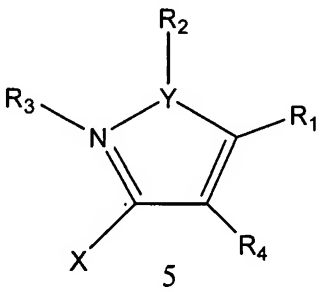

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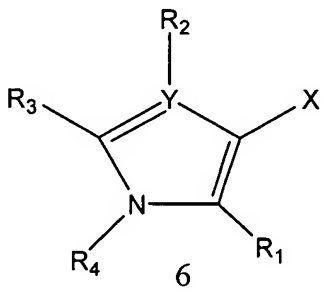

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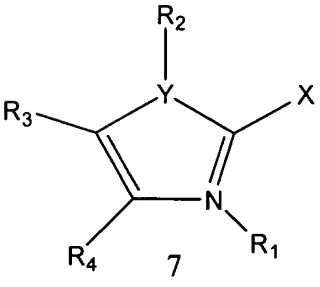
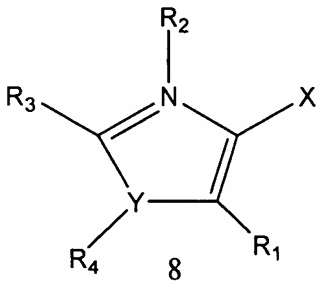


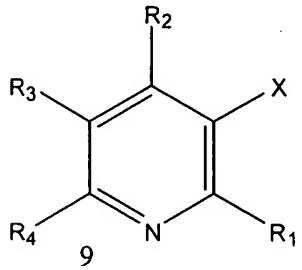
7



8

wherein R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 are independently H, F, Cl, Me, OH, NH_2, CF_3 or Me; X is CONHMe, $COCH_3$, $COCH_2CH_3$, $COCF_3$, CH_2OH or CH_2NH_2; and Y is N, O, or S; when Y = S or O, the corresponding R is not defined;

Formula II has one of Structures 9-18:



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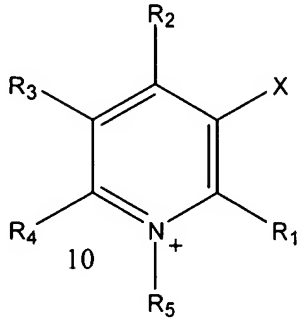

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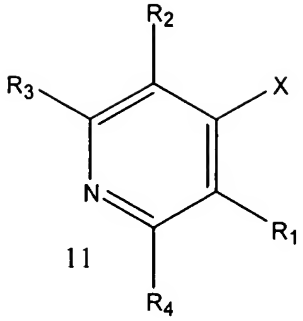

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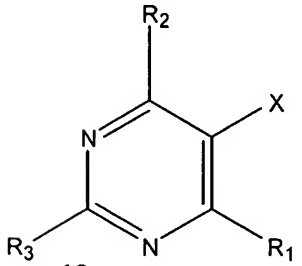

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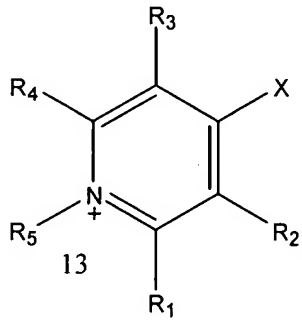

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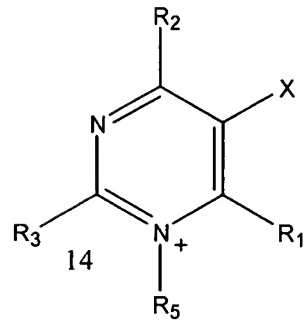
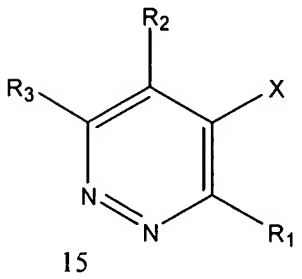
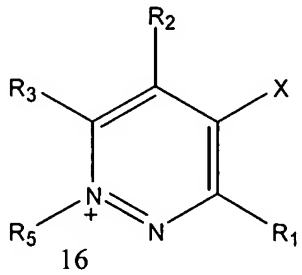


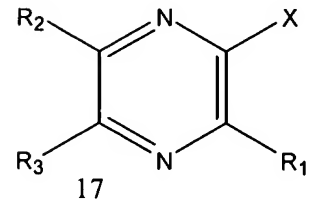
14



15



16



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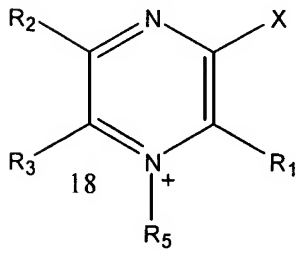
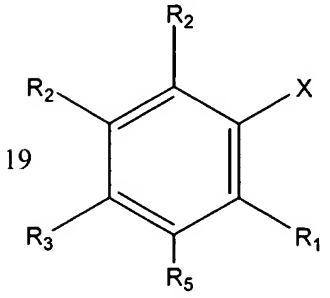
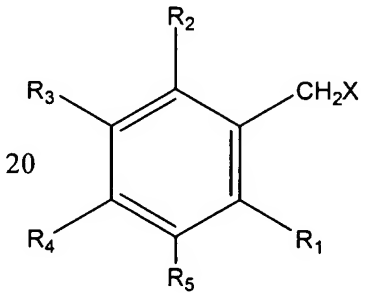


18

wherein R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 are independently H, F, Cl, OH, NH_2, Me or CF_3; X is $CONH_2$, CONHMe, $COCH_3$, $COCH_2CH_3$, $COCF_3$, CH_2OH or CH_2NH_2; and R_5 is Me, CF_3, O or NH_2, and wherein Formula II is not nicotinamide;

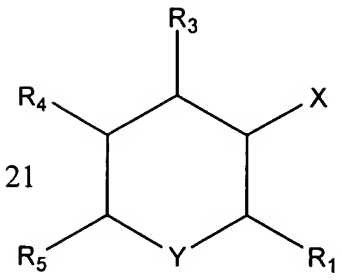
Formula III has one of Structures 19 or 20:

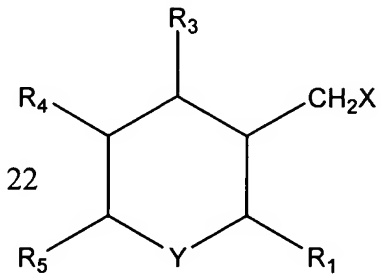




wherein R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, and R_5 are independently H, F, Cl, OH, NH_2, Me or CF_3; and X is $CONH_2$, CONHMe, $COCH_3$, $COCH_2CH_3$, $COCF_3$, CH_2OH or CH_2NH_2;

Formula IV has one of Structures 21 or 22:

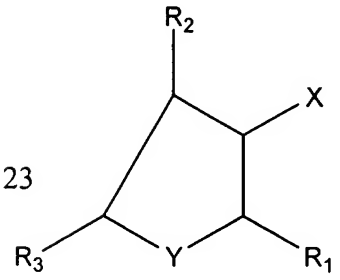




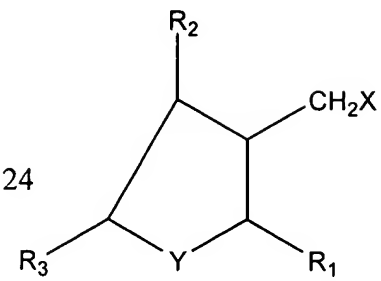
wherein the ring may comprise zero, one or two double bonds; R_1, R_2, R_3, and R_4 are independently H, F, Cl, OH, NH_2, Me or CF_3; and X is $CONH_2$, CONHMe, $COCH_3$, $COCH_2CH_3$, $COCF_3$, CH_2OH or CH_2NH_2; and Y is N, O or S; and

Formula V has one of Structures 23 or 24:

23



24



wherein the ring may comprise zero or one double bond; R_1, R_2, and R_3 are independently H, F, Cl, OH, NH_2, Me or CF_3; and X is $CONH_2$, CONHMe, $COCH_3$, $COCH_2CH_3$, $COCF_3$, CH_2OH or CH_2NH_2; and Y is N, O or S.

2. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound has Formula I.

3. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound has Formula II.

4. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound has Formula III.

5. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound has Formula IV.

6. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound has Formula V.

7. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of Structures 1, 2, 6, 21, 22, 23 and 24, where X is $CONH_2$ and Y is N; Structure 9, where at least one of R_1-R_4 is F and X is $CONH_2$; Structure 11, where R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 are independently H or F and X is $CONH_2$; and Structures 19 and 20, where at least one of R_1-R_5 is F and X is $CONH_2$.

8. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of Structure 1 and 2, where R_2 is CH_3, and R_1, R_3 and R_4 is H; Structure 6, where R_1, R_3 and R_4 is H and R_2 is CH_3 or H; Structure 9, where R_1 is F, R_2-R_4 is H, and X is $CONH_2$ (2-fluoronicotinamide); and Structure 11, wherein R_1-R_4 is H and X is $CONH_2$ (isonicotinamide).

9. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is a fluoronicotinamide.

10. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is 2-fluoronicotinamide.

11. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is isonicotinamide.

12. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable excipient further comprises a second compound of claim 1.

13. (Currently amended) A method of inhibiting base exchange more than deacetylation of an acetylated peptide by a SIR2 enzyme, the method comprising

combining the compound of claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-12~~ with the SIR2 enzyme, NAD^+ and the acetylated peptide.

14-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein a ~~18, wherein the~~ human SIR2 enzyme is selected from the group consisting of SIR2A, SIRT3, SIRT2p, SIRT1p, SIRT1, SIRT2, SIRT3, SIRT4, SIRT5, SIRT6 and SIRT7.

20-26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently amended) A method of increasing protein deacetylation by a SIR2 enzyme in a living cell, the method comprising combining the cell with the compound of claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-12~~.

28-34. (Canceled)

35. (Currently amended) A method of increasing deacetylation activity of a SIR2 enzyme, the method comprising combining the compound of claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-12~~ with the SIR2 enzyme, NAD^+ and an acetylated peptide substrate of the SIR2.

36-40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently amended) The method of claim 35, wherein a ~~40, wherein the~~ human SIR2 enzyme is selected from the group consisting of SIR2A, SIRT3, SIRT2p, SIRT1p, SIRT1, SIRT2, SIRT3, SIRT4, SIRT5, SIRT6 and SIRT7.

42-44. (Canceled)

45. (Currently amended) A method of inhibiting base exchange more than deacetylation of an acetylated peptide by a SIR2 enzyme, the method comprising displacing nicotinamide from a SIR2 enzymatic site using the compound of claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-12~~.

46. (Original) A method of screening a test compound for the ability to increase SIR2 deacetylation activity, the method comprising

combining the test compound with the SIR2 enzyme, NAD^+ and an acetylated peptide substrate of SIR2 in a reaction mixture, and determining whether the compound prevents base exchange more than deacetylation.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein the test compound has one of Structures 1-24 of claim 1.